



CONFIDENTIAL
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: January 6, 1950

SUBJECT: Greek Interest in the Future of Albania

ENCISE

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Paul Economou-Gouras, Minister, Greek Embassy
Mr. John D. Jernegan, GFI
Mr. Leonard J. Gromie, GFI

DIVISION OF GREEK, TURKISH,
AND ITALIAN AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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American Embassy, Athens)
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Mr. Gouras called at 12:00 noon, January 6, by appointment at his own request and said that the Greek Government had heard that the Italian Government had proposed to the French, the British and the Americans that quadri-partite discussions be held with regard to the future status of Albania.

The Greek Foreign Office, Mr. Gouras said, wished to stress the legitimate interest of Greece in the future status of Albania. The Greek Government would regard the holding of any discussions without the participation of Greece as "incompatible with friendly relations".

Mr. Gouras went on to say that Italy's traditional design of obtaining a foothold in the Balkans through Albania had been a chronically disturbing factor in Balkan politics. Italy, he concluded, had no proper place in the Balkans, but the present maneuver apparently constitutes a continuation of this traditional Italian policy of interference in Balkan affairs.

Mr. Jernegan said that he had no information on any specific Italian proposal of the type indicated but that Italy's interest in Albania was well known and had been manifested on frequent occasions.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE 31000/MR

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Mr. Gouras was assured that the views of the Greek Government would be borne in mind if the Italians should propose, as reported, quadripartite conversations on the future of Albania.

(See also Memorandum of Conversation, dated January 5, 1950, between Mr. John Campbell (FE) and Mr. Gabriel van Laethem regarding the Italian demarche to the French in the sense indicated. This demarche was not known to Mr. Jernegan or Mr. Bromie at the time of their conversation with Mr. Gouras.)

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